



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**DAWSON AND VERDON ADDED TO COUNTYWIDE WARNING SYSTEM
VIA USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

Lincoln, Neb., August 27, 2003--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded this month, \$11,100 in grant funds to each the Village of Dawson and Verdon. These monies leveraged with \$4,244 in cash donations from each respective Village will purchase new early warning systems benefiting 432 rural residents.

"Both Villages have existing sirens that are nearing the end of their useful life and are being utilized for fire alert systems only," stated Janice Stopak, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development. "The grant dollars will allow the Villages to join the countywide warning system being developed, which will provide residents with advance warning of adverse weather conditions, for greater safety."

The existing sirens of both Verdon and Dawson will be replaced by new \$15,344 warning systems allowing them to join the countywide system being developed by the Richardson County Emergency Management Center located in Falls City. The countywide system will improve the timeliness of advanced warnings, proper maintenance and testing as it will give the Richardson County Emergency Management Center the ability to control the individual communities' systems as well as each community access to control their own local system.

USDA funds were provided through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program. For additional information contact Janice Stopak at 6030 S. 58th St. Suite B, Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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